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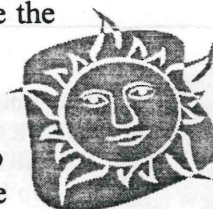
America Recycles Day Wrap-Up

Connecticut has completed its third annual celebration of America Recycles Day with mixed results. We experienced a large increase in the number of America Recycles Day related events- a total of 157 events were registered, up from 118 last year. Schools continued to sponsor the most events, with 64 events taking place at schools, 29 sponsored by municipalities, 20 by Federal agencies (U.S. Post Offices), 16 by non-profit organizations, 11 by regional authorities, 10 by businesses and 7 by state agencies. However, even with increased event participation, pledges unexpectedly were down to 8,398 from a high of 11,482 last year. One likely explanation may be that there was less mass media advertising in major newspapers.

One of the most exciting aspects of this year's celebration included the expanded collection opportunities for recycling residentially-generated electronics. Seven collections of obsolete electronics for recycling were held this fall in Connecticut. The first, sponsored by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, collected 26.4 tons of material (televisions, computers and their accessories) from 415 participants. This collection, sponsored in part by a grant from the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition, broke new ground in our state by working with local non-profit groups to screen incoming materials for computers that were still in working order. These were put in the hands of local community service agencies, such as an after-school program in downtown Danbury, to provide opportunities for young people who do not have a computer at home to learn computer skills.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority sponsored a total of six collections, with five taking place as part of America Recycles Day events. These collections were held in Torrington, Waterbury, Stratford, Hartford, Wallingford and Manchester. Close to 80 tons of material was collected and over 1,400 people participated. This provided an unprecedented opportunity for a large portion of our state's residents to clean out their attics, basements and closets of these unwanted materials. Equipment determined to be unsuitable for reuse will be broken down to its various components (i.e., leaded glass, plastics, circuit boards, etc.) and recycled. Together these events and Danbury's collected well over 100 tons of material! The events have firmly established Connecticut as a national leader in keeping these materials out of the waste stream.

A drawing for prizes for Connecticut residents was held on November 29, 1999. The winners are still being notified. Watch the next issue of the Gazette for an announcement of the winners of the individual and school prizes. We will also announce the winners of the national youth prizes- the DisneyWorld trip and the computer package. The pledge cards of all adults will be held for next year's drawing for the new millenium home in December, 2000. Individuals will be able to pledge again next year for a second entry into the contest. Connecticut thanks everyone who pledged and especially the events organizers who worked so hard to get the recycling message out at the local level. Planning for America Recycles Day 2000 will begin soon. If you, or your organization, would like to participate, please call Meg Enkler, Connecticut Recycles Day Coordinator at (860) 424-3238.



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Connecticut Recyclers Coalition Recognizes Green Schools

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition presented awards to three schools at its annual meeting on November 30, 1999. These three schools were winners of the "Green School" contest and were recognized for their model recycling programs. The schools were: Bishop Woods Elementary School in New Haven, Eastern Middle School in Greenwich and Waterford High School in Waterford. Bishop Woods recycles all mandated and many non-mandated items. They practice vermicomposting (composting with worms). They purchase recycled content products and reuse waste materials for art projects and to make musical instruments. Eastern Middle School also recycles all of the mandated and many non-mandated items. They buy recycled products such as paper and collection containers. They practice source reduction by using E-mail, double-sided copying and are planning a book swap. Waterford High School recycles both mandated and non-mandated items. They have a composting program and buy items such as paper and picnic tables made from recycled materials. They have an environmental club and have participated in the state Envirothon, an academic competition for High School students.



In addition to a plaque, these schools each received free ice cream for all of their students and staff donated by the HP HOOD Corporation. Congratulations to these wonderful schools!

Recycling Program Presents Awards to Poster Contest Winners

On November 15, 1999, the third Annual America Recycles Day, Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell and Deputy Commissioner Jane Stahl presented awards to the winners of the 9th annual poster contest in a ceremony held at the State Capitol. Each student received a unique plaque made from shampoo and detergent containers and a tote bags filled with a T-shirt, frisbee and piggy bank, all made from recycled materials. The posters of the twelve winners will be made into a calendar for the year 2000. The twelve winners were chosen from over 3,000 posters that were created by students statewide. These calendars will be available free in mid-December. All schools and public libraries in Connecticut have received a supply. Businesses, pre-schools, non-profits and municipalities are also invited to request copies by calling (860) 424-3365 while supplies last. This years winners are as follows:

Megan Dupuy, 4th grade, Stratford Academy, Stratford
Kelley Leen, 4th grade, Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull
Nicholas Cosenza, 4th grade, Gildersleeve School, Portland
Brandon Moss, 4th grade, Saint Thomas School, Southington

Gianna Luisa Gurga, 5th grade, Saint Thomas School, Southington
Sarah Esty, 5th grade, Doolittle School, Cheshire
Joanna Cambria, 5th grade, Turkey Hill School, Orange
Dana Gannon, 5th grade, Stratford Academy, Stratford

Yaakov Pap, 6th grade, New Haven Hebrew Day School, Orange
Amanda Powell, 6th grade, Park City Magnet School, Bridgeport
Amanda Velky, 6th grade, Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull
Jamie Azar, 6th grade, Woodstock Middle School, Woodstock



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